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RETAIL PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1971LIB. 1111  
12 MAY 1971Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services which affect a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of houses and flats, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, medical and health services, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is 1966-67 = 100.0.

All Groups

There was an increase of 1.6 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1970 to March quarter 1971, the index number for All Groups rising from 113.3 to 115.1. For the twelve months ended March 1971 the All Groups increase was 5.7 per cent.

During the quarter under review, the Index increased in all State Capitals, the percentage increases being: Brisbane, 1.6; Perth, 1.1; Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, 1.0; Hobart, 0.7; and the weighted average for the six State Capitals, 1.1.

Since the base year, 1966-67, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Sydney and smallest in Adelaide. Percentage increases for the various State Capitals from 1966-67 to March quarter 1971 were as follows: Sydney, 17.4; Brisbane, 15.1; Perth, 14.8; Melbourne, 13.7; Hobart, 13.2; and Adelaide, 12.9. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 15.2 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between December quarter 1970 and March quarter 1971 is given below.

Food Group

The Food Group index increased from 112.8 to 113.9, a rise during the quarter of 1.0 per cent. The main price increases recorded were for fresh meat, processed meats, and cereal products.

Clothing and Drapery Group

Higher prices of footwear were chiefly responsible for the rise of 1.1 per cent in the Clothing and Drapery Group, the index rising from 110.9 to 112.1.

Housing Group

The increase of 1.8 per cent in the Housing Group index, from 116.8 to 118.9, was due mainly to rises in private house and flat rents, and in prices of items used in repairs and maintenance.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The Household Supplies and Equipment Group index increased by 1.6 per cent, from 107.5 to 109.2, because of price changes in household appliances and furniture, and in proprietary medicines.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group index rose from 116.6 to 119.5, an increase of 2.5 per cent. The rise was chiefly attributable to increases in prices of beer and private motoring items.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane  
(1966-67 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscellaneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1960-61	..	84.9	93.1	84.6	95.5	83.1
1961-62	..	85.2	94.4	86.3	97.0	85.6
1962-63	..	84.6	94.6	88.5	96.9	86.3
1963-64	..	86.7	95.3	89.2	95.9	86.8
1964-65	..	92.2	96.6	91.5	96.8	90.4
1965-66	..	98.4	97.8	97.3	98.8	95.5
1966-67	..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	..	103.7	102.4	105.8	101.2	103.2
1968-69	..	104.7	104.3	109.6	104.3	106.0
1969-70	..	107.7	107.3	113.4	105.5	109.2
<u>Quarter</u>						
1970: March	..	108.6	107.7	113.6	105.5	109.5
June	..	109.1	108.8	114.1	105.9	110.7
September	..	110.5	109.2	115.9	106.5	112.9
December	..	112.8	110.9	116.8	107.5	116.6
1971: March	..	113.9	112.1	118.9	109.2	119.5
Percentage Increase on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1970: March	..	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9
June	..	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.1
September	..	1.3	0.4	1.6	0.6	2.0
December	..	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.9	3.3
1971: March	..	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.6	2.5

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities  
(1966-67 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six State Capitals	
<u>Year</u>								
1960-61	..	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	89.2
1961-62	..	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	89.6
1962-63	..	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	89.8
1963-64	..	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	90.6
1964-65	..	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	94.0
1965-66	..	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	97.4
1966-67	..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68	..	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	103.3
1968-69	..	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	106.0
1969-70	..	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	109.4
<u>Quarter</u>								
1970: March	..	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	109.8
June	..	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	111.2
September	..	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	111.9
December	..	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	114.0
1971: March	..	117.4	113.7	115.1	112.9	114.8	113.2	115.2

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane<sup>a</sup>

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1970	January 1971	February 1971	March 1971
<u>Cereal Products</u>					
Bread, white (delivered)					
Unwrapped ..	..	2 lb loaf	19.1	20.0	20.0
Wrapped and sliced ..	..	2 lb loaf	24.1	25.0	25.0
Flour, plain ..	..	2 lb pkt	16.0	15.9	16.1
Flour, self-raising ..	..	2 lb pkt	18.9	19.0	18.6
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	..	½ lb pkt	18.5	19.3	19.0
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	..	½ lb pkt	18.5	19.1	18.7
Biscuits, dry ..	..	½ lb pkt	18.9	19.6	19.3
Oats, rolled ..	..	2 lb pkt	41.8	42.4	42.5
Rice ..	..	1 lb pkt	15.0	15.0	14.9
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered)	1 quart	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	40.9	41.9	40.2	40.9
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	32.9	33.0	33.3	33.3
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	25.6	26.2	26.0	25.5
Butter ..	1 lb	53.7	52.5	53.7	53.5
Eggs (24 oz in carton)	dozen	58.5	57.0	58.1	55.2

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane<sup>a</sup> (continued)

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
			1970	January 1971	February 1971
<u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>					
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz tin	34.1	34.8	33.3	34.5
Pears, canned ..	29 oz tin	34.1	34.8	33.3	34.5
Sultanas ..	1 lb pkt	39.6	40.7	40.7	40.9
Peas, green, canned ..	15½ oz tin	19.5	19.3	19.6	19.4
Peas, frozen ..	16 oz pkt	30.9	31.6	30.3	31.6
Potatoes ..	7 lb	43.9	45.7	60.1	52.5
Onions ..	1 lb	10.0	8.4	9.6	9.7
<u>Beverages</u>					
Tea ..	½ lb pkt	29.2	28.9	29.1	30.2
Coffee, instant ..	2 oz jar	43.9	43.2	42.6	41.6
Cocoa ..	8 oz pkt	40.2	42.3	42.2	42.9
<u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u>					
Sugar ..	4 lb pkt	42.4	42.1	41.7	41.7
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb tin	28.7	30.0	29.8	30.0
Jam, apricot ..	1½ lb tin	34.9	34.7	35.3	36.1
Jam, marmalade ..	1½ lb tin	29.0	29.1	29.6	29.3
Honey, liquid ..	16 oz jar	27.6	27.9	29.2	29.0
Peanut paste ..	12 oz jar	45.9	47.2	47.6	47.6
Beans, baked, canned ..	16 oz tin	17.6	17.2	17.7	17.4
Spaghetti, canned ..	16 oz tin	17.6	17.2	17.7	17.4
Margarine, table ..	1 lb	41.0	43.9	43.9	43.5
Sauce, tomato ..	10 oz bottle	22.7	22.0	21.8	21.6
Pickles, mustard ..	10 oz jar	24.0	25.2	25.2	24.2
Sardines, Norwegian ..	3½ oz tin	17.0	17.5	17.1	17.5
Salmon, Australian, canned ..	16 oz tin	43.4	42.4	42.6	44.0
Soup, tomato ..	16 oz tin	18.2	18.6	19.3	19.0
Quarter Ended March 1971					
<u>Meat</u>					
Beef, rib, roast (without bone) ..	1 lb	56.1		60.0	
" , steak, rump ..	1 lb	89.3		99.4	
" , steak, chuck ..	1 lb	54.9		59.2	
" , steak, blade ..	1 lb	65.6		72.7	
" , sausages ..	1 lb	30.6		33.1	
" , silverside, corned ..	1 lb	60.0		64.6	
" , brisket, corned ..	1 lb	44.9		48.2	
Mutton, leg ..	1 lb	35.8		37.7	
" , chops, loin ..	1 lb	34.5		37.0	
" , chops, leg ..	1 lb	35.0		37.2	
Lamb, leg ..	1 lb	51.6		53.4	
" , chops, loin ..	1 lb	53.8		55.4	
" , chops, leg ..	1 lb	53.6		55.4	
Pork, leg ..	1 lb	63.0		66.6	
" , loin ..	1 lb	62.3		67.2	
" , chops ..	1 lb	62.7		67.0	
Bacon, rashers, pre-packed ..	½ lb	49.3		52.5	

a In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.